



DPW Director Tom Daley cuts the ribbon marking the grand opening of the new Duxbury Animal Shelter.



Animal Control Officer Eddie Ramos and Michelle Puopolo pose with the supplies Puopolo and her friends donated to the shelter.

Animal Shelter Unveiled

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

With a snip of his scissors, DPW Director Tom Daley cut the red ribbon marking the opening of the town's new animal shelter on Saturday.

"This was an incredible cooperative effort between the public and private sector," he said.

The new shelter replaces a smaller, older shelter on the property behind town hall at the DPW department headquarters off of Tremont Street. Annie Eldridge of the Friends of the Duxbury Animal Shelter said \$125,000 was donated by Duxbury residents to the project. The Friends went to town meeting in 2003 and were given the green light for \$75,000 in borrowed funds. However, the project came in under budget with \$30,000 being returned to the town.

"This is a rare example of a public-private partnership that worked," Eldridge said.

In-kind donations helped to bring the cost of building the shelter down. For example, Perfection Fence offered to install the fencing around the shelter for a reduced cost. Many other companies helped out as well. However, Eldridge said these businesses

wouldn't have known about the project if hadn't been for the hard work of Friends Susan Curtis and John Baldwin.

"John and Susan solicited all sorts of in-kind donations for the shelter, which kept the cost down," Eldridge said.

Diane Dewberry, owner of The Healthy Animal in Pembroke, made of bags of dog treats to be given to pet owners during the opening. Michelle Puopolo, 10, of Tremont Street celebrated her birthday and asked guests to bring items for the animal shelter instead of presents for her.

"I knew the shelter needed things," she said.

Puopolo's friends donated cat litter, dog food and toys. She presented a yellow wagon brimming with supplies to the Friends during the ceremony.

However, a wish list of items still needed hung on the wall near the entrance to the shelter. A computer, a vacuum and blankets are all still needed to make the shelter fully operational. Anyone interested in helping the shelter obtain items on its list can contact Animal Control Officer Eddie Ramos or the Friends of the Duxbury Animal Shelter.